

Our future

WSDOT, its Public Transportation Division and its partners have a track record of innovation, sound decisions and proven results. WSDOT employees routinely integrate public transportation features and services into their work, from ferries to tolls, highway operations to Amtrak Cascades. To improve transit service and access, WSDOT has built more than 225 miles of HOV lanes and dozens of HOV ramps and bypasses; built bus pullouts on highways throughout the state and provided funds for trails, sidewalks, accessible curbs and other features that make our transportation network safer and more convenient for people who walk or use wheelchairs, bicycles, strollers or grocery carts.

Adapting to our changing economy and environment and making our transportation system more efficient and accessible is critical and challenging. While there is no simple solution, public transportation is essential to Washington's future. WSDOT and its Public Transportation Division will continue to deliver effective programs and find additional ways to make the most of available resources. We are experienced and determined, and we are building upon a strong foundation of successful programs, policies and partnerships. With support from the Governor, State Legislators and federal, state and local partners, the division is positioned to do even more:



- Provide support to more effectively and consistently integrate demand management into WSDOT project planning, design, construction and operations.
- Provide expertise and coordination to better support major projects like the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement, Columbia River Crossing and SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV lanes and major programs like tolling.
- Advocate for public transportation funding that is stable and supports the organizations that are offering options that make our transportation system more efficient and accessible.
- Promote efficient transportation options to get more people to choose them.
- More fully engage in corridor planning and transit oriented development plan implementation.
- Expand successful programs like intercity bus service, commute trip reduction and growth and transportation efficiency centers.
- Provide tools that streamline project and program delivery for WSDOT and our partners.



For more information:

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate formats by calling the Washington State Department of Transportation ADA Accommodation Hotline collect 206-389-2839. Persons with hearing impairments may access Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service at TTY 1-800-833-6388, Tele-Braille 1-800-833-6385, Voice 1-800-833-6384, and ask to be connected to 360-705-7097.

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Public Transportation Division

Fall 2010

By the numbers

24

Number of rural communities that connect to friends, jobs, trains and planes with Travel Washington intercity bus service.

30+

Percent of Washington residents who are senior citizens, veterans, children, low-income or have disabilities and lead more independent lives thanks partly to improved transportation access.

50+

Percent of downtown Seattle commuters who regularly choose to ride a bus, train, bicycle or ferry; carpool, vanpool or walk; work from home or compress their work week. More than 30 percent of Central Puget Sound commuters make the same choices.

12,900

Total cumulative hours of traffic delay commuters saved last year by participating in commute trip reduction.

28,000

Number of vehicles the commute trip reduction program takes off the road during rush hours every weekday morning.

Providing options that improve people's lives

More than ever, people in Washington are choosing to carpool, catch a bus or ride a bicycle. They are discovering that transportation options beyond driving alone fit their lives. As a result, they now lead the nation in reducing how often they drive alone.



WSDOT's Public Transportation Division fuels this shift by giving people more and better transportation options. The division supports a full spectrum of programs and projects that connect big and small communities and provide access to most people in our state. For example, the division:

- Supports rural and urban transit systems, carpooling, vanpooling, intercity transportation and people with special needs.
- Provides more than \$165 million in biennial grant funding to 138 local organizations that make public transportation more convenient, easy and accessible.
- Engages partners to better integrate transit, carpools, telework and improved access into construction projects, from planning to operations.
- Measures and reports program performance and works with our partners to do the same.
- Helps service providers comply with state and federal requirements, for example, urban rail safety, drug and alcohol testing, and grant accountability.

Our bottom line: make a measurable and meaningful difference for individuals, communities, the economy and the environment.

Our standard operating procedure: form partnerships with businesses, non-profits and governments at all levels to ensure our shared success.

Look inside for more information about the division's work, our model programs and the results we've delivered.



Moving Washington, the state's transportation strategy, incorporates managing demand by striving to make transit, carpools, vanpools, teleworking, walking or bicycling convenient and accessible for all, regardless of income, age or ability.

WSDOT's Public Transportation Division: programs and projects that are as varied as the people we serve



Giving commuters more options

- Enlist more than 530,000 rush-hour commuters at more than 1,000 major worksites in **commute trip reduction** programs. Employers reduce parking expenses, can qualify for tax credits, and reduce their carbon footprint by supporting employees who choose to ride a bus, carpool, compress their work week, etc. Commuters save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and spend less time gripping the steering wheel in traffic. Employees at participating worksites reduced their drive-alone rate by 7.5% between 1993 and 2009, more than double the 3% decrease in the state's drive-alone rate.
- Engage another 235,000 commuters at thousands of additional worksites through **Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers**. The ten centers take commute trip reduction to the next level by engaging small and medium size worksites in congested urban centers and encouraging employees to choose more efficient rush-hour and off-peak transportation options.
- Lead by example through **commute trip reduction at state agencies**. WSDOT, 47 other state agencies and 24 colleges promote efficient transportation options at 175 worksites statewide. In 2009, employees at state agencies eliminated nearly 4,000 weekly vehicle trips from Washington roadways.
- Set a nationally-recognized model for **vanpools**. Washington commuters and the twenty transit agencies that operate vanpool programs across the state have made our state home to the largest public vanpool fleet in North America, now more than 2,000 vanpools strong. Vanpools have proven an appealing choice for many commuters, particularly people with long commutes or limited access to transit service.
- Invest more than \$100 million to support local efforts to keep people moving through **Regional Mobility Grants**. From new buses to park and ride lots, bus lanes to new transit service, grant-funded projects provide people better transportation options on our most congested highway corridors and connect communities.
- Coordinate **park and ride** policies with local governments and transit systems to help preserve and make the most of these valuable assets.

Reducing transportation's affect on the environment

WSDOT is dedicated to creating a more reliable, responsible and sustainable transportation system. We manage the agency's sustainable transportation program by developing and managing policies and strategies that meet today's needs without compromising future generations. We coordinate a strategic and balanced approach, positioning WSDOT as a state and national innovator in conserving fuel and energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Incorporating transportation options into construction projects

- Work closely with WSDOT and local agency construction project teams to help them **integrate efficient and accessible transportation options into projects**, including the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement, I-405 Corridor Program, Columbia River Crossing, SR 520 Bridge and HOV projects, SR 167 HOT lanes and SR 520 tolling.
- Reduce traffic delays and help construction crews finish their work on-time and within budget. We identify **construction traffic** hot spots and facilitate collaboration among state and local project and operations staff. We work with project teams to find low-cost ways to minimize the risk of construction-related traffic back-ups, including public information, contractor incentives and programs that boost people's use of carpools, vanpools, telework and buses.



Supporting partnerships that provide people more transportation options

- Work closely with transit agencies, local governments and employers to continuously improve services by **measuring the efficiency and effectiveness** of our investments, evaluating the results and sharing the lessons we learn.
- Coordinate WSDOT's activities with the **Federal Transit Administration** and public transit agencies. Help project teams collaborate, take advantage of mutually beneficial opportunities and resolve issues.
- Develop RideshareOnline.com and other **electronic commute-management tools** to strengthen local trip reduction and ridesharing programs by enhancing accountability, supporting performance measurement and securing additional resources through partnerships.
- Support the Lake Washington **Urban Partnership Agreement**, which provides federal funds to help WSDOT, King County and the Puget Sound Regional Council manage congestion through a combination of tolling, transit service, trip reduction and Smarter Highways technology.



Providing services that help people live more independently

- WSDOT's Public Transportation Division is committed to providing everyone, regardless of income, age or abilities, access to jobs and their community.
- Provide grants to transit systems throughout the state to help them make buses, vans and facilities more accessible and to **provide transportation service** to people with disabilities. Combined with regularly scheduled bus and train service, hundreds of thousands of people are able to lead more independent lives.
- Lead the **Agency Council for Coordinated Transportation**, a statewide coalition that's making transportation services for people with special needs even more efficient.
- Work to help coordinate transportation services for **veterans** who need to get to medical and other essential services.



Connecting communities

- Connect people in rural communities like Kettle Falls, Omak, Walla Walla and Port Angeles to the rest of the state and national transportation network through WSDOT's **Travel Washington** intercity bus program.
- Provide lifeline transportation access by supporting **rural public transportation** service, facilities and equipment. These services help people, who might otherwise be isolated, travel within their community and to neighboring towns and cities to get to health care, education, jobs, family, friends and community groups.
- **Fill public transportation gaps** by working with local communities, businesses and non-profits to improve transportation access and efficiency. For example, we help organizations coordinate and reduce duplicative services and provide service while exploring longer-term options and improvements.
- Work with **Tribes** to support their efforts to provide transportation services to tribal members and others in their community.